

C.4/C.269

Lexington Mass  
Feb 4, 1900

My Dear Mr Clark -

I owe you a most humble  
apology in so long failing to answer  
your letters or acknowledge the receipt  
of the several papers sent me. My  
only excuse is that I have been so  
engrossed with my business that  
I have allowed myself little leisure  
for anything else, and although the  
wish and intention to write you have  
been with me constantly, yet the opportunity  
has been lacking. Since March 1898  
I have carried your letter in my pocket  
as a reminder, and I am sorry to  
say that for the last six months I have  
carried with it a letter of my Mother's

to Mrs Clark, which she gave me on  
the assurance that I was going to  
write you at once & would enclose it.  
With my apologies to yourself will you  
please offer them to Mrs. Clark for  
this carelessness on my part. Mother  
has written another letter <sup>today</sup> which I do  
forward this time.

I wish to congratulate you most  
heartily on the many well-earned honors  
that have come to you since last we  
met. <sup>was.</sup> I <sup>was</sup> especially glad to read in your  
Hobart paper of the public testimonial  
given you by your fellow-citizens on  
your retirement from the Ministry in 1897.  
It must have been very gratifying to you.  
And I still further congratulate you on  
your present honors as Justice of the

Supreme Court. To one of your tastes  
I feel sure that these new duties must  
be very congenial. By the way, in  
this connection have you heard that  
your friend, Judge O. W. Holmes, has  
recently been appointed to the Chief  
Justiceship here in Mass?

With us there have been  
changes during the last two years. On  
my Father's retirement from active  
business <sup>in 1898</sup>, we at once moved to  
Lexington, feeling that his health would  
be benefited by the change of air and  
better opportunity for out door life.  
We were not disappointed, and with  
greatly improved health he <sup>now</sup> thoroughly  
enjoys his books, his garden and his  
leisure. When you make your promised

re-visit to America we all count upon seeing you here, where you would enjoy visiting the many places of historic interest that surround us. Is it not very nearly time for that promised visit?

Remembering the active interest you have always taken in the United States, I suppose you have followed more or less closely our movements of the last year and a half. As helping to this end I regret that I have not sent you some of our papers. I send one today & will send others from time to time. When you revisit us you will discover a great difference of opinion as to the wisdom of these experiences we have been undergoing.

Imperialism or anti-imperialism is the dominant question here now, and promises to be the issue in the next Presidential campaign. Unfortunately it bids fair to be mixed with the money question, which we hoped was settled at last election. However, this is not yet definitely settled and we hope it may be avoided. Most of your friends in this part of the country you will find to be "antis", but like all reform the "anti"-movement goes rather slowly at first, and present indications are that "Imperialism" - that is the present administration - will prevail. This I find to be the prevailing spirit through the West.

But pardon my touching upon

politics in this letter. My only excuse  
for so doing is that I know you are  
interested in everything American, and  
I suppose that our movements have  
been watched with a great deal of  
interest abroad. It certainly seems  
as if the present disturbed & restless  
conditions throughout the world were  
only the natural sequence of our own  
war. To my mind it is a condition  
very much to be regretted, and with  
the many unsettled and important home  
difficulties that we have upon our hands,  
I hate to feel that the United States is  
putting itself in a fair way to be drawn  
into outside difficulties as well.

Please give my kindest regards  
to Mrs Clark and the other members of

your family. In the recollection of  
my visit to Hobart your kindness  
and hospitality stand foremost, & since  
your visit to Boston my family as  
well as myself all look forward  
to a renewal of this acquaintance.  
Hoping that the opportunity may be  
given us before very long, I am

Sincerely Yours  
C. H. Stevens